the Corporation has been laying greater emphasis on developing non-canalized business of both exports and imports, making best use of its strengths such as finances, marketing skills and countrywide infrastructure. It has diversified into many new areas and also expanded operations in the areas earlier handled. In the liberalized environment, STC continues to play an important role as a trading arm of the Government, for bringing market equilibrium in terms of price correction, meeting shortages of mass consumption items and export of surplus commodities; the Corporation has been playing an important role in the implementation of inter Government treaties of trade, besides acting as a nodal agency to monitor and implement counter trade commitments/off-set obligations.

Terminal at Wagha border to facilitate trade

†973. SHRI R.S. GAVAI. Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is setting up a terminal at Wagha border in order to facilitate trade with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what way India will benefit by this terminal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) There is already a Land Customs Station (LCS) at Attari Road (Wagha Border) handling imports of dry/fresh fruits from Afghanistan *via* Pakistan. The same LCS can handle the trade with Pakistan.

(c) The trade with Pakistan through this station will cut short the period which is otherwise taken by other means of export *i.e.* through containers by sea or rail.

Issues to be raised by India in WTO conference at Hong Kong

974. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the preparations made by Government and what are the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.